THE GRAY FOX OF GIBRALTAR; A ROMANCE OF THE ROCK

A Tryst on the Rock.

The silvery notes of a bugle sounded along the slopes of the Rock, signaling the sentry changes. It was almost the

of the spot. There were no parades there, no marchings back and forth to the music of noisy bands in the year 1704, so turbulent in most parts of Europe. One little company, of barely a hundred and fifty men, was all that Spain could spare from her wars to defend the noblest fortress of the continent.

They were hardly enough for guard duty, a man and a half to each of the great guns, looking from the face of the cliff across the stormy entrance to the Mediterranean.

But for that matter, what foe would venture to attack Gibraltar, the Rock which nature had made more secure than any fortress ever devised by man? The throne itself might topple and invaders trample Spanish fields, but the Rock would remain, symbol of the eter-

nal power of Him who fashioned it. So thought every man of the little garrison, so thought every Spaniard. And thus there was a note of proud security as well as a stern summons in sunset call of the bugle.

The measured, pulsating tones floated above the huddled group of houses that formed the town, and out to the little boats bobbing up and down on the heaving billows of the bay. They climbed the surface of the Rock itself and reached the ears of a girl who was ounting up the zigzag path that led toward the summit.

At the sound she turned and looked down upon the bugler whose strutting figure was like that of a game cock, at Then, shading her eyes the distance. with one slender hand, she gazed at the sun hanging low in the western sky.

"It is true," she said aloud, although the deserted slope had no ears for her words. "It is but a half hour to sunset. I must hasten or Carlo will think I am

not glad to see him."
Gathering up her short skirt with one hand and swinging her broad hat in the other, the girl bounded up the path with the agile grace of a young gazelle. She gave no pause to her flying steps until she reached a clump of ust trees which grew on a projecting ledge that formed almost the only break In the steep ascent of half a thousand

Here she halted, breathless, and looked expectantly about.

There was nobody in view and only an indistinct echo came back in answer

After gazing in every direction to make sure that the spot was deserted, the girl uttered an exclamation of imand threw herself upon roughly-fashloned seat formed by a projecting boulder.

As she rested, half recumbent upon the seat and with eyes closed, she formed a picture that must have been like the young peach tree when the hot days of spring come on.

The lips, crimson almost, but not too full of beauty, were parted in a half curve at the quick indrawing of her breath. She had brushed the dark half from her rounding forehead, and it fell in a careless tangle across her shoul-

The setting of this plenteous beauty was a gown of dull green, its soft texture bearing testimony to the skill of some oriental weaver. Across her shoulders was flung a scarlet shawl of ace, and the trim ankles peeping from beneath her skirts were incased in spangled Moorish boots.

It would not have been an easy mat-

brilliancy of the lips and the heavy dark hair, all betokened that African madly and has threatened to or less rapidity according brave. It is true also that he loves me madly and has threatened to over the surroundings. race whose sway held this Southern off if I will not wed him." peninsula in leash for centuries. The even in repose, suggested another

were inscrutable, the color of the sum- might like Brulo better than I do." mer sky when a sultry haze is in the One who knew all climes and all peoples could have said of this girl only (what was the truth) that she seemed many blood, but of English." the incarnation of Gibraltar, which the ancients wisely named "the end of the

It is the end of worlds and the gateway of worlds, where North and South and East and West meet and mingle as do the waters of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean between the Pillars of

idle posture, with no thought apparently except to recover from the ex-

Presently an irregular sound came from higher up the slope. It was like

the careless footfalls of a man or animal in a masty descent of the hillside, The sounds drew rapidly nearer until they were close to the arbor within which the girl was sitting. She heard them and her lips moved a little as though counting their approach, but she ot change her postion nor open

When near the little grove the heavy steps subsided into cautious footfalls

that advanced slowely around one side of the arbor. Then of a sudden two arms reached out, covered the girl's eyelids and drew her head backward until the owner of the arms could reach

The girl gave a little cry and made struggling to free herself. Finding this in vain, she sank back with her head upon her captor's shoulder. and encircled his neck with her arms

said. "I have waited so long. I thought that you were not coming-that you had forgotten me. Say that you had not Not for a single moment, my adored

one. I have been longing all day to kiss you again-like that, and that, and

The girl breathed a sight of content-

'But you are late. You did not come when you said.'

"As soon as I could I flew to your You should have seen me leaping the road early in the morning.

path. But I was detained. The commandant sent for me. I have news t

tell you-such news! I am going away. "Ah!" The girl stood suddently erec and drew her breath in sharply. only sound that ever disturbed the quiet knew it not myself an hour ago, when been so sad all day."
"That is impossible, my flower, for I

knew it not myself an hour ago, who the commandant sent to tell me that was to bear a message to the capital. There was a joyous note in the your man's voice in spite of his attempt to seem indifferent. The girl turned quickly toward him, and her glowing eyes carched his face.

"Yes; you are going away, and you are glad."

There was reproach in her voice.
"Glad? Why not? Is it not an hone be sent as a messenger to the court There are half a dozen above rank who might have been selected, but the commandant chose me because, he said, I was both brave and discreet Why should I not be glad?"

The young officer sat erect and struck his hand proudly against his breast. There speaks the Lieut, Carolus Mer

Mertrez, in turn, showed that he was lously,

The girl put her hands caressingly against his bronzed cheeks.
"Yes; I do. I am pleased; but the

thought that you are going away make me very unhappy. "You do not think that in a week

shall forget you?" "Oh, no, mio Carlo, I do not think that you will ever forget me, even

though you cease to love me.' Something in her quiet tone seemed menace and sent an unpleasant thrill and as they pass you and touch your through him. He realized that it was possible to fear this girl, who seemed all 'He loves thee; he loves thee, and you ssion and tenderness.

"Do not shrink from me," she said. "Do not shrink from me," she said. own Carlo."

The girl's only answer was to throw

about us.'

"Love a Moorish woman
And you sharpen a sword:
Let your love turn from her,
And its iron shall pierce your own
heart."

"But you are not all Moorish," ob

exercise until it seemed as though the cheeks were bursting with soft color, easing to the most critical eye. The control that I am also of the Romany blood, heart in a sweet tumult of joy, as is also while one drop of Romany blood re-mains in one's veins it will claim its own. But that she says when she wishes me to look kindly upon the suit of her son, and I do not believe it all; I feel that I am Moorish to the last

"Have little to do with Zanosa," said the Witch's Cavern high up the rocky like end of each sentry beat, slope, and who leered at him with evil like dim stars set in the hillside.

peated. "Naught but ill can she do to and rocking to and fro like restless know, that I may always be ill."

tionality. Had she chosen to reveal her name, Anita Courtney, it would have been of small assistance in solving the question.

The easy curves of the figure, the ling uplift of her long lashes. "I do not fear Zanosa's arts and she has taught me many things. As for Brulo, it is true that he has a beautiful mustache, and it is said that he is the chief of a hand of brigands so he must help to indicate that she moved at her leisure." band of brigands, so he must be very or less rapidity according to their the girl, transformed to a quenly ap-

aconventional freedom of dress as well the jealous light that kindled in her fall. But this suggestion had met with tered another room. This, from the as the fervent expression of the face, companion's eyes. She put up her opposition from some of the most in- freshly laid table in the center, prowrist for him to kiss.

The eyes, usually the index of a Carlo," she went on. "Put your lips to the darkness, woman's nature, when unveiled by the sweeping lashes now closed above them, hold none of the gypsy blood else I

The officer swept his mustache up the mer sky when a suitry haze is in the shore and air and one can look into it an endless course of the delicate blue tracing to the larger craft in the offing, bearing distance without fathoming its depths. the elbow. Then raising his head he

"When I spoke, I thought not of Roface, and there was a harder tone in

"Yes, my father is English, but I have nothing of him except perhaps his cruelty, as I sometimes think. No," inter-rupting his angry gesture, "he is not cruel to me. He robes me in silks and gives me many attendants and such lewels as shall dazzle your eyes when you see them. But I cannot love him. I would forget that I have aught to share with him. Let us talk of other ertion of her hasty ascent of the steep things. To speak of my English blood makes me angry and today I am un-

happy because you are going away."
"Be not too unhappy over that," said the young man, although his face five days, or at least a week, I shall

The girl was looking out across the water once more. "A week before I keen only for the gold of roystering was making his meal from dry bread ive again," she said dreamily The officer kissed the cheek that was

turned toward him. not so. Shall I not return to you as

"I know not. I hope so. I will pray

the Virgin so, but something in my heart makes me afraid." neart makes me afraid."
"Then think not of it, but let me sit lown here beside you and tell you over

nd over again that I love you and an A long time they sat there, side by side upon the rough seat against the locust tree, until the shadows that had

been creeping up the side of the great rock began to close about them. At Gibraltar the darkness does not fall from the wings of night, but it creeps upward like a great tide ingulf-ing the town, the fortress, and last of Il the summit of the rock itself

eneath the two lovers until they seemed to be far up above the earth, away in a world of their own, as lovers eyer

I must get back to the fort, for I take

By E. W. MAYO.

A Story of the Rock, the Grim Guardian at the Portals of the Mediterranean, and Embodying a Romance in Which Cupid and Mars Played Equal Parts.

my father knew of my wandering about | mansion thus unattended.'

But she still clung to her lover's arm.

dant is sending for re-enforcements of with Moorish tapestries, and a pleasant dant is sending for re-enforcements of the first standing in one corner.

It is what I have many women to always known. I have many women to always known and beautiful in the first standing in one corner.

It is what I have and that the work is brazier, standing in one corner.

It is what I have and sufficient reasons, were inclined attend me, rich gowns and beautiful keep their knowledge to themselves.

To the traders of all nationality in the first standing in one corner. trez, and not my lover Carlo. It is ever the way with men. Honor is ever the way with men. Honor is everything to them, and love nothing. A word from the commandant, and I am word from the commandant word from the commandant word from the commandant word from the commandant was a commandant word from the commandant word from the commandant was a commandant was matters it is well to be secure.

pray that she may keep you safely." "And my heart shall rest here with Orient. you and my thoughts be ever of you as I journey to the North. When the moon rises I shall blow her a kiss and tell her as she shines through your chamber will know that it comes from me.

"To the breezes I shall tell a secret will know the message is from your

do not mean that I am going to hate her arms about her lover's neck and you now, but you know the old saying to press her face to his, but he felt upon his check the warm tears that

her eyes wander out past the tall white rock long since named the Virgin's Shrine, she recited the couplet: and the young lieutenant returned by the way along which he nad come.

Again the girl raised her head proudly.

Again the girl raised her head proudly.

"I am of the Moors. Think of me although the shadows of the lewer though the shadows of the lewer the shadows of the

CHAPTER II.

A Home Scene.

the young man, his brow darkening at through latticed windows. The young man, his brow darkening at thought of the old hag who lived in the end of each sentry beat, looking "Not so," said the girl, patting the the end of each sentry beat, looking

It had once been proposed by the Spanish governor that a lantern watch stairway that led to a long hall, softly The girl laughed outright as she saw, should patrol the streets after night-lighted, and passing through this, en-"But he is not like my own noble their purses both flourished better in were paneled, and there was an array

As it was, there was nobody whose business it was to hear or heed the strange, black boats that passed many times to and fro between the shore and goods that would never pay tribute into the treasury.

A less experienced pedestrian would ave found it a difficult matter to keep The smile vanished from the girl's footing in the uneven passageways that formed the Gibraltar streets. But Anita seemed in no wise troubled by its many rregularities.

She tripped quickly on, sulting her ace to the rough surface and instinctively moving to one side or the other o avoid the greater depressions and the heaps of rubbish that burdened the path at frequent intervals.

Now and then she passed dark slouching figures that moved along within the deeper shadows of the house walks. They glided by silently and with out greeting, like uncanny spirits of the

night. The girl gave them no heed, though she knew that each dark cloak hid a desperate knife.

As she was well aware, the vulture scent of these evil night birds was sailormen or fat waisted traders. So and washing it down with gulps of if one's purse was light he might give thin, red wine from the flagon at his the laugh to fear in Gibraltar, but woe elbow. betide him who had more coin in his

In a street that ran close to the waterappearance the dwelling might have their owner exulted.

Seen deserted, for not a ray of light For some moments the two sat in een deserted, for not a ray of light

silent as a churchyard vault. Even pane! of the low entrance gave back a

In response to her summons the doc ng inward noiselessly and quickly and the girl disappeared within the dark cess thus formed. Quickly and noise essly the door closed again, under th and of the Ethiopial woman who has

Although the building from the exte rior had the forbidding aspect of a dun

the girl, "it would fare ill with me if haliway as a spacious and handsome

The room into which she emerged was like a court in form, with a lofty What is this evil errand that takes celling that rose to the height of two of her frequent excursions about the you from me?" she questioned after a ordinary stories. This apartment was town and up the rock. lighted by a score of swinging lamps. But the crafty eyes w "That I cannot say because I know with sides of cut and colored glass, from d among the officers that the comman- cut the place. The walls were hung

There was an Oriential luxury in every forgotten."
"Not so; it is not that, my crimson flower. The sun shall not shine for me a moment while I am away. I shall think only of you. But I supposed you would rejoice at the honor that has come to me."

Mertrez, in turn, showed that he was matters it is well to be secure.

"That I think is the mission that takes me to the capital and it urges me to haste even as does the thought of my adored one awaiting for me. You will be here to meet me on my return, will you not, preclous one?" he inquired anxiously.

"There was an Oriential luxury in every detail of the apartment's furnishings. Which was the more surprising because of the unpretentious appearance of the house on the outside, and its location in the roughtest querter of the town. It seemed as though the owner, through motives of fear or prudence, had given be a secure.

There was an Oriential luxury in every detail of the apartment's furnishings. Which was the more surprising because of the unpretentious appearance of the unpretentious appearance of the unpretentious appearance of the outside, and its location in the roughtest querter of the town. It seemed as though the owner, through motive of fear or prudence, had given be a constant of the apartment's furnishings. "I will, my lover, and every day his abode the meanest possible show-hig to the passerby, and had at oned for the sit before the Virgin's shrine and this sacrifice by fitting its interior with ing to the passerby, and had atoned for the girl's cheek. She was betrayed into of caution on his part, no careless the most sumptuous products of the

girl tursed aside at a curtained door- too reely, even within his own home way, beside which a third woman was He shook his head wearily as he re-Thence she mounted a nar- plied: window to press it to your lips and you will know that it comes from me. the rear of the building.

arge as the first, though not so lofty. agerness with which two black women advanced to offer their attendance, it was evident that this was her own

It seemed in truth more like the re treat of a princess than the room one would have imagined as belonging to wound along the slope toward the town in such helter skelter fashion a few do you charge Zara to see to the barring

Once the girl paused to look back.
Her lover had reaced a projecting point near the summit and stood there motionless, dimity outlined against the fading color of the sky.

It is a stood there waters, and then bringing a long gown of costly jet covered cloth in which they proceeded to robe her.

When they had completed these operations another woman attendant, older others. The women moved swiftly and noise-

first time since entering the house, inquiring if her father was at home "He is," the woman answered, "and now waits for you to join him at table. The town in which the girl de- When he asked for you I told him that ner that the girl's curiosity was piqued. It was the same with all Courtney's cended was already in darkness save you were dressing and I trembled much. He had never spoken before of leaving affairs. The sloops that rocked idly in

older woman's wrinkled cheek. Outside the harbor were other lan-terns slung to the tops of high masts,

"How many times has that tale served "Is that because she is a witch, or because she has a handsome son who loves me?" asked the girl with a teasing uplift of her long lashes. "I do not fear Zanosa's arts and she has taught." There were no public lights along the long some mest return

pearance by her change of costume, advar.ced across the room, descended a quential citizens. Their consciences and claimed itself the dining hall. Its walls

of gleaming silver upon the sideboard. At one side of the table a man was aiready seated, the master of the house. The two greeted each other politely, ut with no show of affection. Neither their manner nor their appearance suggested that they were father and

daughter. From the richness with which the dwelling was furnished and from its Oriental atmosphere, one might have imagined it the house of some large Jew, or some one of half a dozen other types familiar on the borders of the Mediterranean, who turned empty palms toward the world, but within their own out. nomes reveled in richness denied to

The man who sat with bowed form and blinking eyes before this shining board was like none of these. The thin, wiry body, the straggling beard that had once been a chestnut color but ow was faded and streaked with gray proclaimed Andrew Courtney a native of the British Isles and a descendant o

the race of St. Andrew. trasted strangely with the unkempt ap pearance of the man himself, and the plainness of the food before him. He

As he raised his eyes now and then pouch than was matched by the stock to gaze about the room they blinked of discretion in his skull. customed to face so much light. Withfront the girl paused before a house in the eyes themselves there grew sullt, like its neighbors, with a single look of peculiar cunning as they rested entrance and a heavily latticed balcony upon one object after another as though projecting overhead. To all outward the sight recalled some memory in which

silence while the serving woman nois The girl halted a moment as though lessly entered and departed bearing variistening to learn if anyone was apous dishes. At length the man ceased groaching. The street was deserted and his busy crumbling of bread and addressed daughter, while his unthe soft tap, tap of her fingers on the speaking eyes still roved about the room His voice possessed a distant, fog-like quality that seemed to have the

saltiness of the sea in it, as he said, peaking in English "Have you been well today, Anita?"
"Quite well," replied the girl. She did not add the word father. Another silence ensued. After a time

"How do you like the life here? Doe it please you to sit all day in the house con, it revealed itself as soon as the to vell yourself when you venture out,

The girl glanced up in surprise. It was not like her father to talk in that strain. For a moment she fancied that means he might have learned

But the crafty eyes were again roving about the room and the furrowed it not certainly myself, but it is rumor- which a diffused light was shed through- face betrayed nothing. So she answered, calmly:

"It suits me well. It is what I have Then he went on with no change in his

and do much that is de | ed her here. Would not that please you more?"

a surprised exclamation. "What! Would you go from here?" The shifting eyes had contracted again Passing quickly across the court, the as though their owner feared to speak

"I know not, lass. I know not. I was only thinking of what might hap-This terminated in a room almost as pen before these many days; that we might go hence and live among gentle-From the abandon with which the girl folks and get you a fine husband it you flung herself down on one of the silk willed. But let it bide until the time comes and that happens as may hap-

> not speak until the meal was ended. Then he said, without raising his eyes: "Give no thought to what I have told ou, for if change there is to be you shall know it soon enough. Tonight I shall be occupied in the warehouse, so

> The girl bowed her head in sign that she understood, as she arose to !cave

She had no thought of asking Andrew Courtney more than he chose to reveal. He had never told her what the business was that kept him occu pied so many nights in the dingy building behind the dwelling and facing on the harbor. She knew that it was vain and dangerous to inquire too closely

into his affairs.

But she had seen the black boats slip away at night from the shadows of the old warehouse and she knew that they ame not back empty.

Tonight, however, there was some-thing so unusual in her father's manwhere velled lamps shone uncertainly when the hour grew late and you will bring bility of such an event had never oc- of the warehouse seemed never to have She knew nothing of the world aside black fellows who formed their crews "If I from those eddles in its currents that were always to be seen lolling about none flowed about the base of the rock. Her the decks or sleeping in the sun.

lover had spoken of great events that When the safe cover of darkness en were stirring, of war, of the possibility veloped the Rock, however, the sloops of an attack on the fortress.

Did her father's words refer to the sped away to the great ships from over same thing? He was an Englishman

Had he in mind some plan against the And always, before the morning light Spanish? Her Moorish women, to whom such shaping their course by the lantern education as she possessed had been enthat gleamed through the star-shaped

But she felt a great desire to satisfy ner newly kindled curlosity, to learn cargo. But in Gibraltar those who had what her father had meant, for he never no concern abroad remained behind barspoke without some well thought out red doors after nightfull and those intention behind his words. Besides whose business sent them astir she might obtain some information well content to leave others to their which would interest Carlo on his re- own devices even as they wished them-

Revolving these thoughts in her mind, she hesitated for a few moments and the relations between the house with then, making sure that the coast was clear, she slipped noiselessly down the ready traversed. At its further end she listened in

tently for a moment and then called in "Sartor! Sartor! I is I, your mistress.' The door slid noiselessly back and a

uge, swarthy fellow whose earrings glittered in the dim candlelight that

in a tone that was commanding, although no louder than a whisper, "is visitor expected tonight?' "Yes," answered the servant simply.

Apparently no thought of evading her uestion entered his head. "I have a wish to see who it is, must help me to the little niche where

the partition of the inner room." The Moor looked at her in surprise It was years since she had made a request. Not for many months had he so much as entered the warehouse. "If it were known, my life would pay

for it," he said simply. The girl made an impatient gesture. "My hiding place will not be discov red, and if it were you know that would not betray you even to save my

The man offered no further objection but whispered: "Return in a half hour's time then. The master will be busy with the ac ounts and will not notice even should

ou make some slight noise."

The girl thanked him with a smile chase supplies. If these supplies had and moved away to replace her heavy never paid duty to the treasury that gown with one more suittable for he indertaking. From her conversation with the at tendant, it was evident that she ex-

erted an authority greater than her

father himself, and that in this hous

known even to its master, CHAPTER III. The Gray Fox of Gibraltar.

Had the town been all Spanish or all

led to inquiry on the part of the au-But since it was what it to pry too closely into his neighbor's quite lifeless. affairs lest the attention should be mu-

Courtney's was not the only business in Gibraltar that flourished in devious paths and in defiance of the port

Trade must go on, and where it has been convenient for generations to for-get the ordinary laws of commerce, each man must be his own law and must overreach others in order not to be himself overreached.

In Courtney's case there was little ground for those inclined toward speculation to go upon, and the old man and the warehouse went on as before. lived for twenty years in the town. he was known to low-residents, and these few, for good and sufficient reasons, were inclined to To the traders, of all nationalities

grizzled form and bent figure of the old secreted in vaults of which he alone man had long been familiar. When they dropped anchor at dusk, "There be other towns in other off the narrow point that curved out ountries, like Lunnon say, where it is from the great promontory and made There a lass can go about the bay a quiet and sheltered spot, they would wait for his silent sloop,

black to its very crew, to come along-side. They would save their cloicest The thought of going away blanched fabrics for him, knowing that no lack error, would ever involve them in trouble with the harbormaster.

> name. To them, one and all, he was known as the Gray Fox of Gibraltar. be difficult to say. Certainly he was be difficult to say. Certainly he was a carcely accurate to describe Courtney as a pirate in spite of the peculiar enterprises in which the black sloop sometimes indulged on her own account when times indulged on her own account when the curse tonight as he sat at the course tonight as he sat at the course tonight as he can always and the curse tonight as he sat at the curse indulged on her own account when the curse tonight as he was thinking of the gold and the curse tonight as he was thinking of the gold and the curse tonight.

the old man's appearance and the reputation he bore among the captains. Therefore he remained "the Gray Fox," and was likely so to remain to the end of his trading days in Gibraltar.

Many stories of his bloody and hair-raising exploits were spun by the had been replaced by others of better younger officers of the ships that put in was of braided velvet, and the cloth was of braided velvet, and the cloth to admit that they knew absolutely nothing concerning the past of this remarkable man. In the town itself the mystery con-

erning him was no less profound He seldom appeared upon the streets, never by day. Those who had business to transact with him came to the tall warehouse with the blackened walls that stood behind his residence. Apparently there was no connection between these two buildings. In real-

ity the tangled grape vines that grew

in the garden behind the house scr a stone walled passage that led from one to the other, any other occupation. The strapping

seas that lay at anchor in the harbor dawned, these same ill-formed night Anita had no liking for Spaniards. birds came winging back to the pier trusted, had taught her to look down aperture in the roof of the warehouse. upon them as an upstart and a mongrel Oftentimes, too, the walls of the bleak building itself echoed with sounds remarkably like the unshipping of

> selves that others would leave them. While the eye might be deceived as to warehouse, there certainly was no con nection between the latter and the shop upon the main street of the town where a smooth-faced Moor and many Moorish

ssistants dispensed all manner of mer-

Yet the goods upon the shelves of the

chandise at most attractive prices.

bazar were curlously like the goods that went over the side of the black-bellied slocp, and every night the master of the shop journeyed down to the ware-house with the ledger in which was written down the day's sales and the bag in which were the day's receipts There Andrew Courtney pored over the book and pocketed the gold and gave nstructions to the smooth-voiced Moor. Perhaps that was why the unknown master of sloops and shop and men was not a familiar figure on the streets of the town. Those whom he willed to s came to see him at the dark hour when they knew he could be found in the little I used to hide from Nurse Pandour and tight-walled office at the rear of the

They moved silently as did all about this strange man and his household. They were admitted by silent attendants who conducted them to the presence of the man with knitted brows whose chill blue eyes made them move

incomfortably on their chairs.

While Courtney shunned acquaintance made only for acquaintance sake he made it his business to know certain men-and officials. So it happened that there were often callers in the ware-

Once a quarter the Spanish governo came, unattended, uttered the password like the others, and was admitted as were they. And his coming never of easioned surprise.

It was the governor's business to pur

clearly was none of his affair. If he bought at rates below the ordinary it was clearly within his right to put the difference into his own pocket. Andrew Courtney had pointed this out to bim several years before when

There had been a time when the governor, filled with the zeal that fol lows a first appointment, had set out to old ones for the business of the port. He had wondered at the idleness of the black sloop lying beside the ware-

ried on by Andrew Courtney, trader, her. One of the men had been found might have aroused suspicion, or have soon after lying at the foot of the stone pier.

Evidently he had fallen off the wall was-Gibraltar, the meeting place and in the darkness and the rough stones exchange of the best and worst among had broken his skull. At any rate, it mankind-nobody thought it worth while was badly crushed and the man was

The other man never reported to the governor. On the day following this accident to his companion he entered

Andrew Courtney's employ. The governor wondered at this, and being a man unaccustomed to fear, he went himself to inquire into the business of the black sloop. He was received politely; apparently he had been ex-

pected He talked long with Andrew Courtney nd he had been coming regularly ever since. And the business of the sloop

saw to it that this little was made less wherever possible. Though he had if the governor had known of all the riches possessed by the man whose customer he was. But Courtrey made

no display of what he owned. He wore a threadbare coat to receive the most distinguished of his visitors

Semetimes he visited the vaults and oured out the shining contents of the boxes. There upon his knees he thrust his knotted hands through the shining heaps of coin and counted its worth and chuckled over it in miserly delight, Always, when he left, there was the glow of a half-devilish satisfaction in his chill eyes and a curse upon his lips.
The delight was for the treasure; the
curse for the land that had given the Few, even of those who thus had dealings with him, knew Courtney's true lealings with him, knew Courtney's true not of his existence, and for the soul

of a man long dead.

It had been so for twenty years, and How this name originated it would every year the glow of cupidity in the be difficult to say. Certainly it was

business of the ordinary kind was dull. rate the eyes were narrower than usual There was, however, a certain aptness and the lips were drawn thin in an unn the title which made it agree with picasant smile which seemed to waver and to shape itself into unuttered anathemas under the changing light from the Arabian lamp that hung above him. He was expecting a visit and appar-

the matter of facts they were all forced to admit that they knew absolutely neck was of rare Persian silk. Upon one finger of the hand that ested on the table was a ring from which a glowing diamond flashed with a warm radiance that made bis chill

ently a visit of an unusual nature

eyes seem more lusterless than ever. The hour glass standing on the table nad been moved thrice and the hour He was ushered silently through the outer darkness and stood unannour before the office door as it slid noise

The light from the steady torch beide the entrance revealed his face gainst the darkness outside. The light dways shone thus on Andrew Courtey's visitors, leaving himself in comarative shadow. The figure outlined by the light was that of a well-knit, youthful man with a pleasant English face. He bore him-

self with the stiff erectness imparted by long seasons of drill, and his bronzed cheeks showed the bluish tinge common to military men, and rest from the daily visits of the razor. At present his face wore a somewhat ouzzled expression. Evidently he did

ot know what to make of the strange anner of his reception. But he displayed no sign of fear and advanced calmly to take the chair to

which Courtney motioned him For a moment the two sat in silence, while the narrowing blue eyes of the lder man took in all the details of the other's appearance. Then he broke si-

You come

'From Sir Admiral Rooke, on the adrice of Captain Powelton," interrupted the young man whose uniform proclaim ed him an officer of the British navy, "I am Lieutenant Calthorpe, though I dare say that my own name does not signify in the present matter The elder man paid no attention to

he latter portion of the remark, but nouired with a faint trace of eagerness "Did Captain Powelton give any word for me?

"He asked me to say, 'Remember the Barbary Chief, and keep faith."

The eyes of the older man shifted from the other's face on which they had rested for a moment. The knotted hand on which the jewels shone, drummed upon the table, and the bent figure straightened in the chair. He spoke

"Aye! It is because I remember and ecause I am keeping faith pledged long since, not to man but to the devil in ell-that is why I sent to him." The young man shifted uncomfort-bly on his seat. The strange nature

of his surroundings, the mysterious atthe whole affair seem uncanny.

His eyes were fascinated by the flashing jewel upon his companion's restless fingers.

After a pause, Courtney spoke again,
"I am glad that Dick Powelton renembers me. We were shipmates many
ears ard." ears 270."
"He led me to believe that you would

"He led me to believe that you would have something of importance to impart," put in the officer, anxious to escape reminiscences.

"Of importance—something of importance?" Courtney chuckled over the words, though there was no trace of a smile upon his lips now. Once more he turned toward the young man with a sudden access of energy.

"Yes, it is something of importance," he said. "I want you to go to your admiral and to say to him: "Why don't you take this Rock of Gibraltar for the glory of England and the humiliation of this accursed nation of Spain?"

The eyes, burning with a gleam of polar lightning, looked straight those of the young man as he put query abruptly. His earnestness the novelty of the suggestion startene officer.

"Take Gibraltar?" he faltered. "impossible."

impossible. I tell you it is not, plied Courtney half angrily. I many guns, how many men, think lefend this fortress, a fortness in plane?"

done?"
"Many hundred. I do not kno nany, but enough to sink any flore it could come to shore. In "Fools," interrupted Courtage dly. "Fools are the Spaniar. not so; fools the Englis

and a hundred rusty guns that fire fifty shots all told." the pecular nature of the business car- house and had set two men to watch [TO BE CONTINUED NEXT

down the side of the cliff like a great